

## Molad Times

### For the Jewish Years 5780 & 5781 (2020-2021)

When blessing the new month in the synagogue on the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh, it is customary to announce the time that the *molad* (birth of the new moon) occurs in Jerusalem, so that it can be kept in mind while saying the blessing.

Traditionally, the time is announced in hours, minutes and *chalakim* — e.g., "The *molad* will occur Sunday evening, eight minutes and seven *chalakim* after seven o'clock." A *chelek* is one 1080th part of an hour, or 3.33 seconds. In this table, we have noted the time of the *molad* in hours and minutes (e.g., 7:08 PM), and we've also noted the number of *chalakim*, for use in the traditional announcement.

All times listed here are Jerusalem times, and are so announced in the synagogue regardless of location.

For more about the *molad*, see [What is the molad?](#) at the bottom of this page.

### Molad Times for 5780 (2019-2020)

Molad for Month of	Day of Week	Date	Time
<i>Tishrei</i>	Sunday	September 29, 2019	5:50 (5 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Cheshvan</i>	Monday	October 28, 2019	6:34 (6 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Kislev</i>	Wednesday	November 27, 2019	7:18 (7 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Tevet</i>	Thursday	December 26, 2019	8:02 (8 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Shevat</i>	Shabbat	January 25, 2020	8:46 (9 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Adar</i>	Sunday	February 23, 2020	9:30 (10 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM

<i>Nissan</i>	Tuesday	March 24, 2020	10:14 (11 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Iyar</i>	Wednesday	April 22, 2020	10:58 (12 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Sivan</i>	Friday	May 22, 2020	11:42 (13 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Tamuz</i>	Sunday	June 21, 2020	12:26 (14 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Av</i>	Monday	July 20, 2020	1:10 (15 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Elul</i>	Wednesday	August 19, 2020	1:54 (16 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM

### Molad Times for 5781 (2020-2021)

<b>Molad for Month of</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<i>Tishrei</i>	Thursday	September 17, 2020	2:38 (17 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Cheshvan</i>	Shabbat	October 17, 2020	3:23 AM
<i>Kislev</i>	Sunday	November 15, 2020	4:07 (1 <i>Chelek</i> ) PM
<i>Tevet</i>	Tuesday	December 15, 2020	4:51 (2 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Shevat</i>	Wednesday	January 13, 2021	5:35 (3 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Adar</i>	Friday	February 12, 2021	6:19 (4 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Nissan</i>	Shabbat	March 13, 2021	7:03 (5 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Iyar</i>	Monday	April 12, 2021	7:47 (6 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Sivan</i>	Tuesday	May 11, 2021	8:31 (7 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM
<i>Tamuz</i>	Thursday	June 10, 2021	9:15 (8 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
<i>Av</i>	Friday	July 9, 2021	9:59 (9 <i>chalakim</i> ) PM

<i>Elul</i>	Sunday	August 8, 2021	10:43 (10 <i>chalakim</i> ) AM
-------------	--------	----------------	--------------------------------

[Click here](#) to convert Secular to Jewish dates

## What Is the Molad?

The Jewish calendar is lunar-based, with each month representing one lunar cycle — the time it takes for the moon to complete one orbit around the earth.

The *molad* is the time of the moon's "birth." There is a point in the moon's orbit in which it is positioned directly between the earth and the sun, making it invisible to anyone standing on earth's surface. The *molad* occurs when the moon has moved far enough from this position that a thin crescent of its illuminated surface becomes visible, marking the start of a new Jewish month.

The time it takes for the moon to complete one orbit around the earth — as calculated by sages and confirmed by astronomical observation — is 29 days, 12 hours and 793 *chalakim* (there are 1,080 *chalakim* or "parts" in an hour, hence a *chelek* is 3.33... seconds). This represents the average time from *molad* to *molad*. The actual moment at which the moon becomes visible will vary slightly from the average *molad*, depending on the relative positions of the earth, moon and sun to each other at any given month, where on earth the observer is standing, the length of twilight at given seasons of the year, and other astronomical variables.

For this reason the Jewish calendar is "tweaked" so that Rosh Chodesh — the first of the month — is as close as possible to the time in which the moon would actually be seen in Jerusalem if we were still relying on actual observation of the moon to establish the start of a new month (as was done until the 5th century C.E.). Also, because a month has to be made up of whole days, the Jewish month alternates between 29 and 30 days. This is why Rosh Chodesh will often occur a day or more after the average *molad*.

© Copyright, all rights reserved. If you enjoyed this article, we encourage you to distribute it further, provided that you comply with Chabad.org's copyright policy.